

## Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

### Main Points

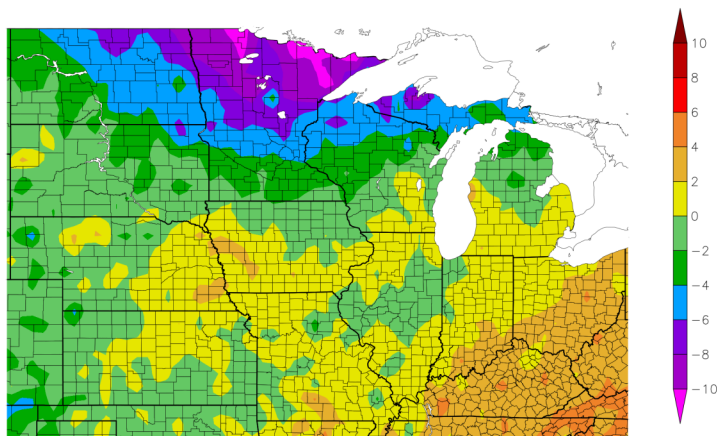


- Over the last month, the region has experienced moderate temperatures, except for colder patterns in the northern Midwest.
- Soil moisture conditions persist – wetter in the eastern parts of the region and drier in the central-west.
- Outlooks follow La Niña composites as La Niña persists.
- Moisture issues for the spring season seem likely to be similar to current conditions.
- The summer outlook will possibly be influenced by La Niña.



### Current Conditions

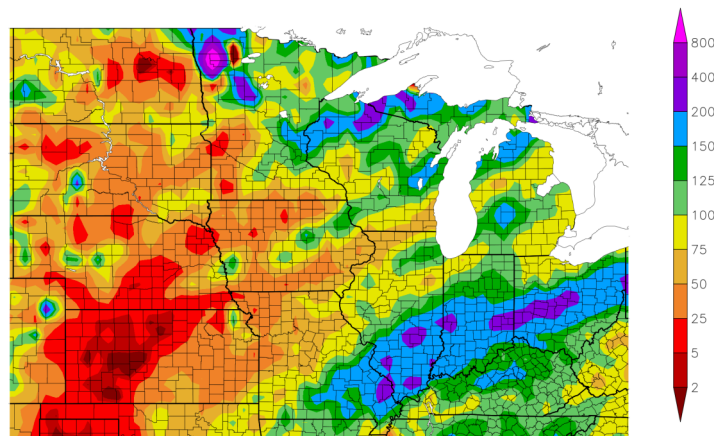
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/7/2022 – 3/8/2022



Generated 3/9/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
2/7/2022 – 3/8/2022



Generated 3/9/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Warmer temperatures (overall and compared to average) returned to the region as near- to above-average temperatures covered most of the southern half of the region in the last 30 days. Some areas in and around northern Minnesota were much colder than average, where snowpack was most persistent. Precipitation continued with a similar story over the last few months. Mostly wetter-than-average conditions persisted from southern Missouri toward the eastern Midwest (at 150% to 200% of average), and in the northern portions of the region with pockets of snow. The rest of the region was drier or much drier than average, with most of the western half below 50% of average precipitation for February.

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](https://climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest). Generated: 3/9/2022.



## Impacts

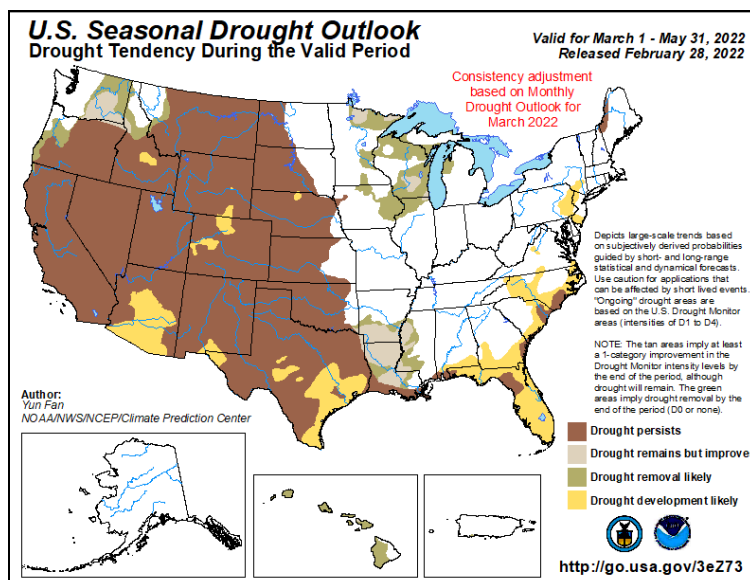
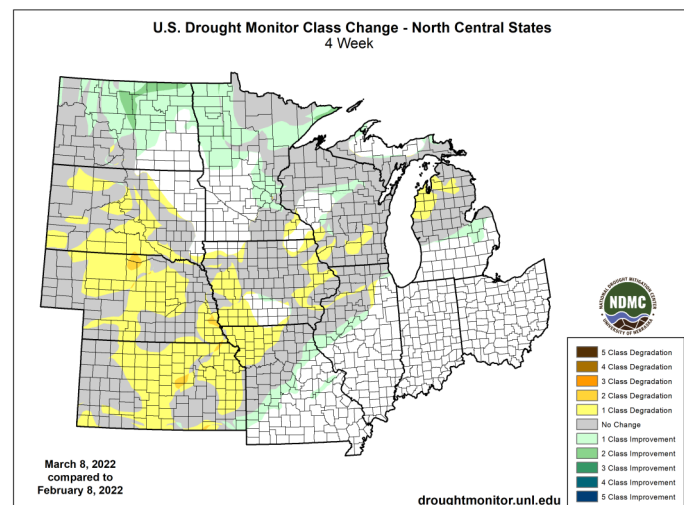
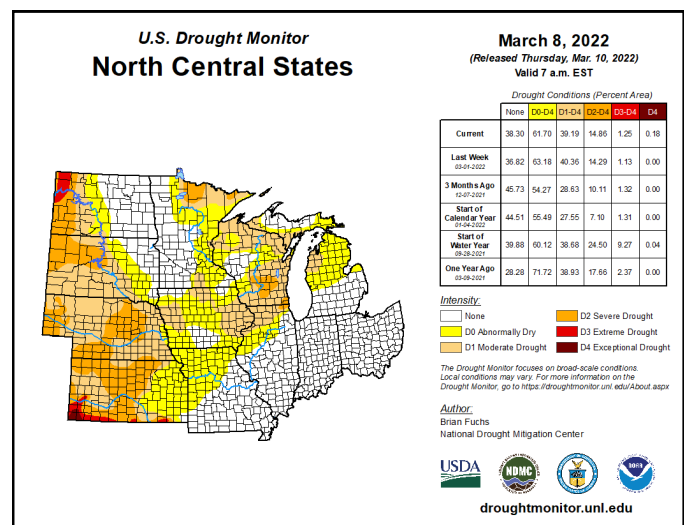
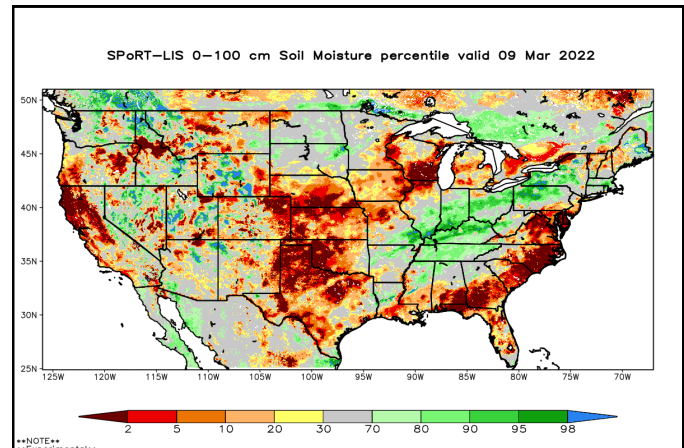
Soil moisture reflected overall precipitation patterns and ongoing patterns. Eastern areas of the Midwest, especially closer to the Ohio River, are much wetter than usual, leading to potential spring field work concerns. Central Corn Belt areas are somewhat dry, but currently with less concern. The Plains mostly continue to be very dry, with ongoing concerns about lack of moisture for winter wheat, pasture, and rangeland when green-up approaches. Some Northern Plains areas have received more precipitation, with some areas experiencing wetness problems, including the Red River Valley area, due to fall moisture and ample snowpack.

The lack of major snowfall and cold in the Plains has been beneficial for calving and lambing, but producers will likely welcome snowfall for the moisture. (As a note, a major storm is crossing the central Plains as this document is being developed; the impacts are not yet known.)

Drought areas have rematerialized to some extent due to the overall lack of precipitation in the central Corn Belt and into the Plains, while some drought recovery has occurred in the Northern Plains and somewhat in the eastern Corn Belt.

The lack of excessive warmth has helped hold dormancy break of perennials at bay for now, generally avoiding freeze issues; however, some areas in the far southern portion of the Midwest and into the central Plains may be at risk of a freeze affecting perennials.

**The Midwest Climate Hub would like to hear reports of damage to any crop or horticultural in your region.**



Maps Generated by [NASA SPoRT](#), the [Climate Prediction Center](#), and the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#).



## Outlook



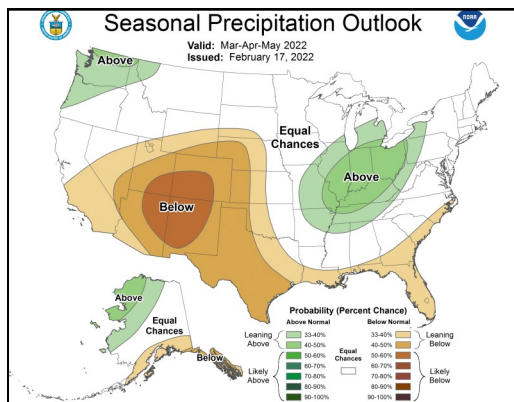
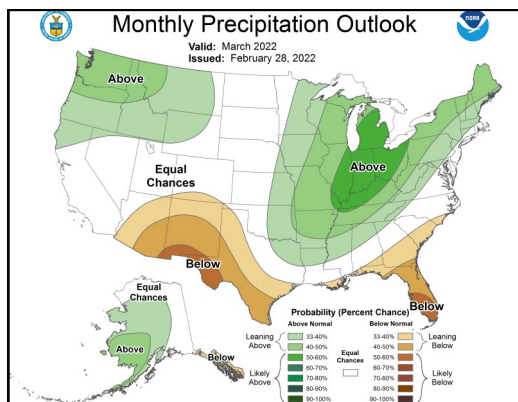
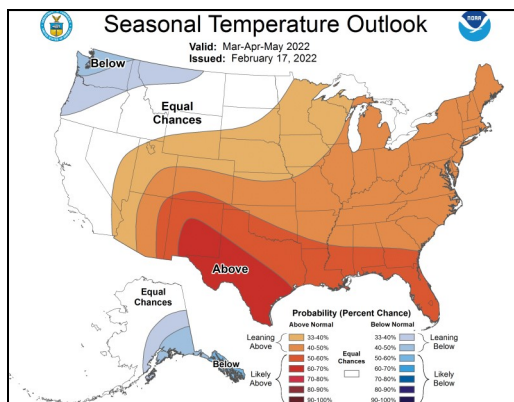
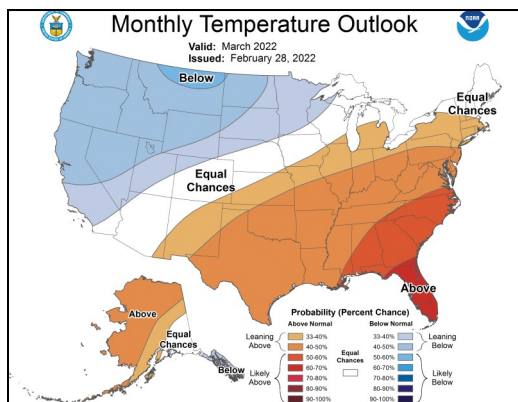
The monthly and seasonal outlooks continue to reflect La Nina tendencies as La Niña conditions are projected to last at least through the spring season. One shift in the outlooks is the possibility of La Niña persisting weakly into summer. The March monthly outlook splits the region for temperature, with the southern and eastern Midwest slightly more likely to be above average and with the northwestern Midwest leaning cooler. Precipitation chances are above average in the eastern portion of the region, which already has high levels of wetness. The Plains are mostly equal chances for above- or below-average precipitation. For the seasonal outlook (March to May), there is a smaller area of possibly wetter conditions in the east; there are higher chances of dryness in the Plains. Most of the region has some increased chances of above-average temperatures.

From an agricultural standpoint, spring is expected to look a great deal like current conditions, with more precipitation and potential delays for spring field work delays across much of the eastern Corn Belt. Drought and dry conditions appear likely to persist in the Plains. The western Corn Belt, northwestern Midwest, and High Plains show more uncertainty about spring

conditions. Some drought improvement is possible in dry areas from Wisconsin to the southwestern and western portions of the region. Given the lack of improvement in much of the Plains and limited chances of spring improvement, ongoing drought issues are very possible.

From a longer term perspective, there are hints that La Niña could persist into summer (even weakly). La Niña composites for the summer would reinforce current conditions, with continued potential for dryness and warm temperatures continuing in the Plains. The eastern Corn Belt shows probabilities of either slightly wetter conditions or no strong signal.

Email the [Midwest Climate Hub](mailto:laurie.nowatzke@usda.gov) to join our list of subscribers.



Outlooks provided by the [Climate Prediction Center](https://climatepredictioncenter.com/).

## Partners and Contributors



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[National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](https://nidis.noaa.gov/)

[Midwestern Regional Climate Center \(MRCC\)](https://mrcc.org/)

[Midwest State Climatologists](https://midweststateclimatologists.org/)

[High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](https://hprcc.org/)



## For More Information

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